

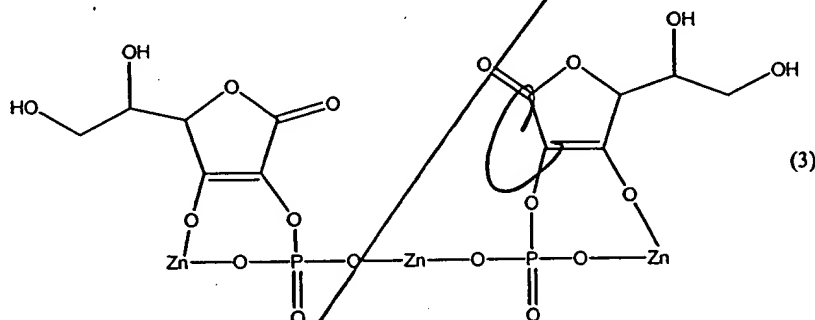
Sub C' cont
inhibitory effect on growth of *Propionibacterium*.

A' cont
4. (Amended) A dermal agent according to claim 9, said dermal agent having an inhibitory effect on *Staphylococcus*.

5. (Amended) A dermal agent according to claim 9, said dermal agent having inhibitory activity against lipase derived from microorganisms.

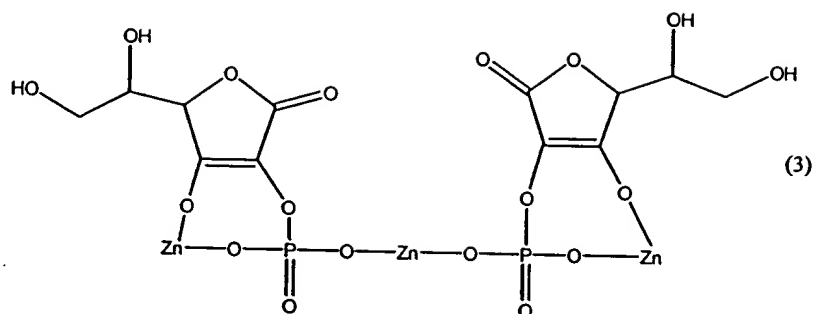
6. (Amended) A dermal agent according to claim 9, said dermal agent having inhibitory activity against hyaluronidase derived from microorganisms.

9. (Amended) A dermal agent a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo represented by the following formula (3):

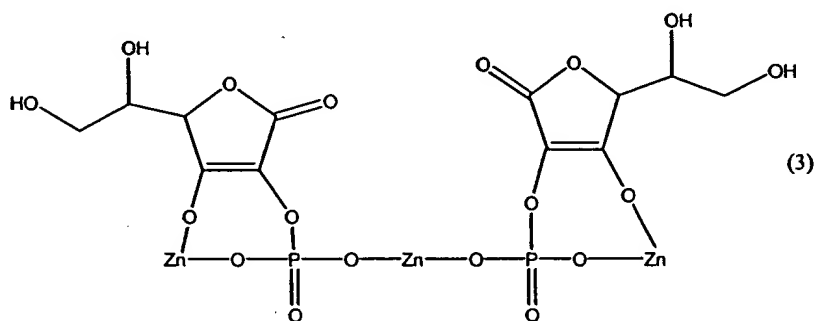


Please add the following new claims:

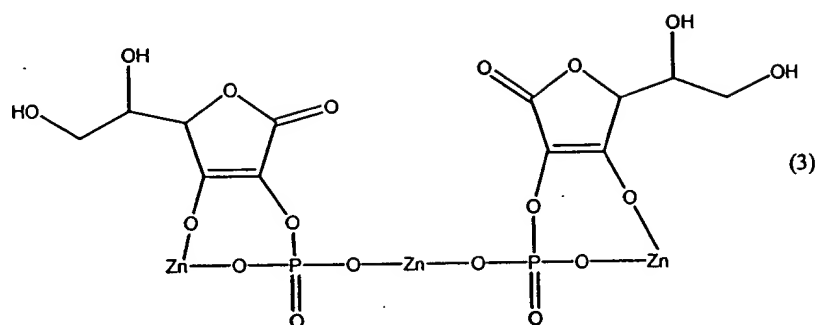
A³
16. (New) A method for preventing or treating acne comprising administering a dermal agent comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo represented by the following formula (3):



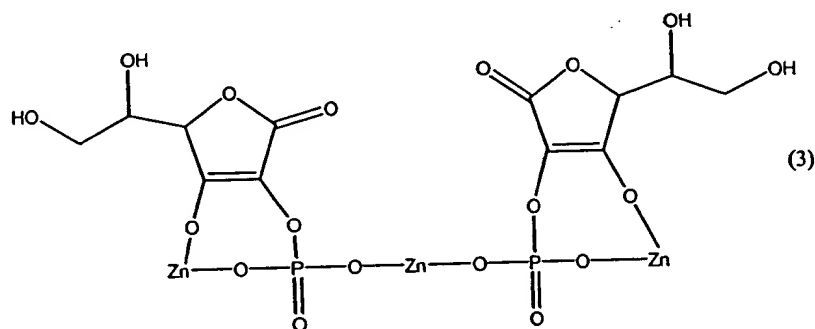
17. (New) A method for inhibiting the growth of *Propionibacterium*, comprising administering a dermal agent comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo represented by the following formula (3):



18. (New) A method for inhibiting the growth of *Staphylococcus*, comprising administering a dermal agent comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo represented by the following formula (3):



19. (New) A method for inhibiting the activity of lipase derived from microorganisms comprising administering a dermal agent comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo represented by the following formula (3):



20. (New) A method for inhibiting the activity of hyaluronidase derived from microorganisms comprising administering a dermal agent comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which liberates ascorbic acid in vivo represented by the following formula (3):

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 09/492,763

